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LETTER DATED 5 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, GERMANY, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to draw your attention to a Contact Group ministerial text issued on 2 December 1994 by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (see annex).

We would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative
of France

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative
of Germany

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) Edward W. GNEHM
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the United States of America

Annex

Contact Group ministerial text
issued on 2 December 1994

Ministers expressed very deep concern about the recent intensification of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly around Bihac. They were unanimous that the solution to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia can only be reached at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield.

Ministers stressed that there must be a cessation of hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including an immediate cease-fire in and around the safe area of Bihac. The agreement on cessation of hostilities must include the separation of forces, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the interposition of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops.

Ministers supported UNPROFOR efforts to pursue demilitarization, particularly of the Bihac safe area and Sarajevo. They demanded immediate freedom of movement for UNPROFOR and for humanitarian supplies throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. They reconfirmed their full support for strict enforcement of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and decisions taken in pursuance of them.

Ministers agreed that UNPROFOR is performing a mission of great importance. It should continue, provided that the risks do not become unacceptable.

Ministers reaffirmed their prior communiqués and the Contact Group plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which must be accepted by all parties.

Ministers instructed the Contact Group to seek resumption of negotiations on that basis, to commence immediately after a cease-fire, particularly in and around the Bihac safe area, and a withdrawal of Bosnian and Krajina Serb forces from that safe area.

Ministers welcomed the economic agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Krajina Serb authorities signed today and called for its early and full implementation. A modus vivendi will then have been achieved in the Krajinas. They urged the parties to negotiate constructively on the international plan for the United Nations Protected Areas of Croatia, once finalized, and the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to support the process.

Ministers called for early mutual recognition between all States of the former Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, which is key to the future stability of the region.

The territorial proposal of the Contact Group with its 51:49 parameter and its commitment to the integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina, remains the basis for a settlement. That territorial proposal can be adjusted by mutual agreement between the parties. Constitutional arrangements agreeable to the parties will need to be drawn up that preserve the integrity of Bosnia

and Herzegovina and allow equitable and balanced arrangements for the Bosniac-Croat and Bosnian Serb entities. The Contact Group will facilitate discussions between the parties looking towards a settlement.